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Anne Bradstreet - Poetry

“To My Dear and Loving Husband”

If ever two were one, then surely we.
If ever man were loved by wife, then **thee**.
If ever wife was happy in a man,
Compare with me, **ye** women, if you can.
I prize **thy** love more than whole mines of gold,
Or all the riches that the East doth hold. →
My love is such that rivers cannot quench,
Nor ought but love from thee give **recompense**.
Thy love is such I can no way repay;
The heavens reward thee manifold, I pray.
Then while we live, in love let's so **persevere**,
That when we live no more, we may live ever.

“To My Dear and Loving Husband”

1. What emotions does Bradstreet express toward her husband? Point to at least 2 specific words/phrases in the poem that make you think so.
2. What do the last two lines of the poem mean?
3. How can you connect this poem to what we've learned about Puritans and their culture?
4. Is this poem still applicable today in any way? Does it remind you of any modern books, poems, or songs?

“Upon the Burning of our House”

In silent night when rest I took,
For sorrow near I did not look,
I waken'd was with thund'ring noise
And piteous shrieks of dreadful voice.
That fearful sound of "fire" and "fire,"
Let no man know is my desire.

I starting up, the light did spy,
And to my God my heart did cry
To straighten me in my distress
And not to leave me succourless.
Then coming out, behold a space
The flame consume my dwelling place.

And when I could no longer look,
I blest his grace that gave and took,
That laid my goods now in the dust.
Yea, so it was, and so 'twas just.
It was his own; it was not mine.
Far be it that I should repine,

He might of all justly bereft
But yet sufficient for us left.
When by the ruins oft I past
My sorrowing eyes aside did cast
And here and there the places spy
Where oft I sate and long did lie.

Here stood that trunk, and there that chest,
There lay that store I counted best,
My pleasant things in ashes lie
And them behold no more shall I.
Under the roof no guest shall sit,
Nor at thy table eat a bit.

No pleasant talk shall 'ere be told
Nor things recounted done of old.
No candle 'ere shall shine in thee,
Nor bridegroom's voice ere heard shall bee.
In silence ever shalt thou lie.
Adieu, Adieu, all's vanity.

Then straight I 'gin my heart to chide:
And did thy wealth on earth abide,
Didst fix thy hope on mouldring dust,
The arm of flesh didst make thy trust?
Raise up thy thoughts above the sky
That dunghill mists away may fly.

Thou hast a house on high erect
Fram'd by that mighty Architect,
With glory richly furnished
Stands permanent, though this be fled.
It's purchased and paid for too
By Him who hath enough to do.

A price so vast as is unknown,
Yet by his gift is made thine own.
There's wealth enough; I need no more.
Farewell, my pelf; farewell, my store.
The world no longer let me love;
My hope and Treasure lies above.

Use complete sentences!

1. Paraphrase the poem - put each STANZA in your own words. You might want to use another sheet of paper.

2. How does the speaker feel about her house burning down? Use a separate sheet of paper to draw a picture that represents her feelings. For example, if she was very excited about her house burning down, you might draw her having a smiley face and exclamation points (hint: she's not excited). Underline or highlight at least 2 lines in the poem that help you know how she is feeling.

3. Do you think the speaker's attitude toward the fire is relatable? Can you understand where she's coming from? Why/why not?

4. How can you connect the poem to what we've learned about Puritans and their culture?